Supply of heavier boats to rowing team at Seoul Asiad

1495. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at Seoul Asiad (i) Indian horses were disqualified in the equistarian event and (ii) ten Kg. heavier boats were supplied to the Indian rowing team; and

(b) what action Government have taken in this regard and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Information has been called for from Indian Olympic Association which is awaited.

(b) The appropriate authorities to take action in the matter are the Indian Olympic Association and the National Sports Federations concerned.

Foreign exchange spent for Seoul Asian Games

1496. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of events in the recently concluded Asian Games in Seoul in which Indian sportsmen took part;

(b) what is the number of sportsmen who visited Seoul and what is the number of officials of (i) the Government of India, (ii) sports organisations, and (iii) State Governments who visited Seoul during the games; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange spent on each visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Indian sportspersons and teams were cleared for participation in Cycling, Golf, Tennis, Weightlifting, Badminton, Hockey (W), Yachting, Swimming, Water Polo Diving Equestrian, Table Tennis, Gymnastics, Archery, Judo, Volleyball, Shooting, Boxing, Hockey (M), Athletics, Wrestling, Rowing, Football and Taekwando events of Xth Asian Games, 1986.

(b) Department of Youth Affairs & Sports cleared a contingent of 310 sportspersons and 85 managers, coaches, doctors etc. for participation Xth Asian Games. In addition 37 technical sports officials like referees umpires etc. and delegates from national sports federations were also cleared for going to Seoul during the period when X Asian Games were held. Information about the number of Government officials among these officials has been called for from Indian Olympic Association/State Governments. A 10 member Government delegation including 2 officials of the Government of India and 2 officials of the Sports Bodies also visited Seoul during this period. No official from State Governments was cleared for visit to X Asian Games by the Department.

(c) Foreign exchange amounting to about US $3.94 lakhs is estimated to have been spent in the above context.

Discovery of 3rd Century B.C. Port in Tamil Nadu

1497. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Times of India on 27th October, 1986 to the effect that a port

dating back to 3rd Century B.C. has been found in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the place would be speedily developed and protected and opened as a tourist resort?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The excavations at Alagankulam, District Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu, undertaken by the State Department of Archaeology have revealed that it was a port site under continuous occupation from 3rd Century B.C. to the 5th Century A.D. The finds from the excavations include Northern Black Polished Ware, potsherds with Tamil Brahmi inscriptions, besides Roman Ware and coins suggesting its relation with the Western World from 1st Century B.C. onwards. Minor antiquities found here consist of beads of semi-precious stones, shell-bangles and grooved tiles.

(b) The site has to be excavated for a few more seasons to ascertain its archaeological wealth and to assess its tourist potentialities.

Air taxi service

1498. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government propose to undertake an independent evaluation of experience of air taxi system in USA and other countries where the service is reported to be now losing its popularity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): No, Sir.

Medical facilities to freedom fighters

1499. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in Indian Express of 21st August, 1986 wherein it has been stated that freedom fighters and their families are to be given free medical facilities in Government hospitals throughout the country; and

(b) if so, when will these orders be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Necessary orders extending free medical facilities to freedom fighters and their families in Central Government hospitals have been issued.

Growth of clinics for Predetermination of sex

1500. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that amniocentesis is a serious health hazard and that it is unethically exploited by the sex determination clinics in major cities, particularly in Bombay;

(b) what is the reaction of Government for this mushroom growth of PDT (Predetermination of Sex) clinics; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Amniocentesis is indicated for research purpose and for the diagnosis of sex linked disorders. However, there are press reports that this test is being used unethically for the determination of the sex of foetus, especially in major cities including Bombay.

(b) and (c) Maharashtra State has recently constituted a State-level Committee to make an in-depth study of this issue both for technical, legal and public education aspects on this issue. The Government of India is also examining further action on this point.